

WASHRAGTM



VOLUME 24 ISSUE 02
FEBRUARY 2022

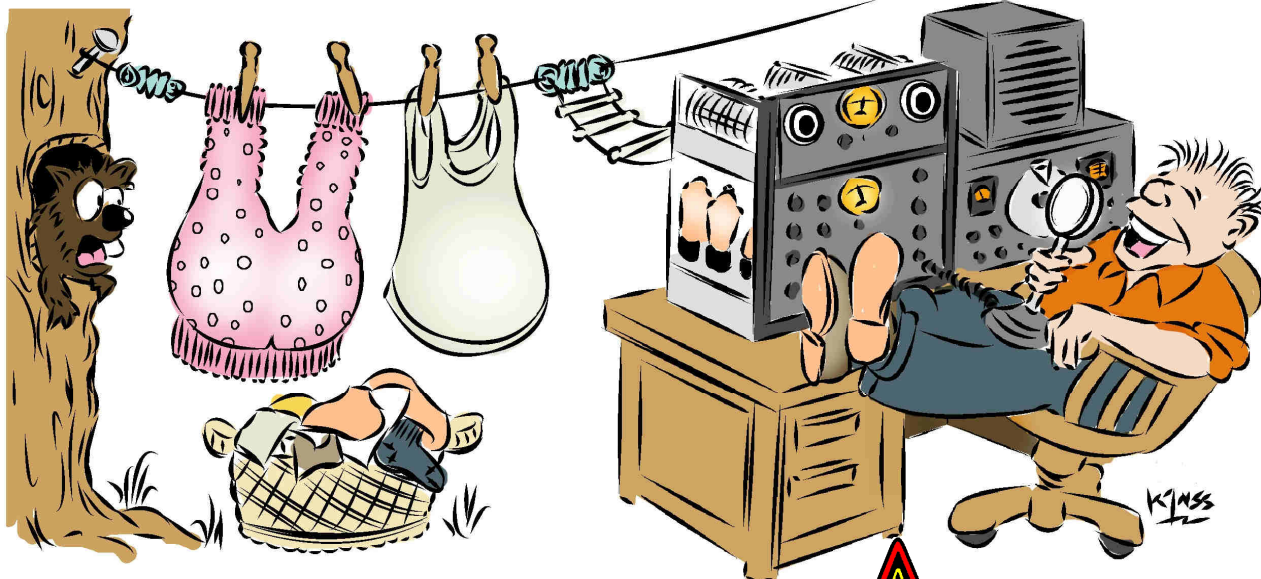
Wireless Association of South Hills

N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 24 ISSUE 02

FEBRUARY 2022

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, February 3rd, 2022

The next scheduled meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, February 3rd, 2022**, starting at 7 PM. This will be an online-only ZOOM meeting; please watch your email for information on how to join the meeting, or contact Curtis KB3CMT before Thursday evening.

Topics **WASHFest 2022** planning, 2022 planning, and more!

See you there!

Cover: Who says hams don't build or repair anymore? Nathan KC3GMM is working fixing his 220 MHz antenna

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2022 Nathan Suehr KC3GMM

WASH 2022 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Curtis Turner KB3CMT
VP / Secretary	Nathan Suehr KC3GMM
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH Trustee	Larry Comden K3VX
WA3SH Trustee	Rich Danko N3SBF
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B QSL Manager	Ron Notarius W3WN
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Grant Olson KC3MLC
Webmaster	Curtis Turner KB3CMT
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
WASHFest 2022 Committee	Glenn Roberts KE7FD, Co-Chair
	Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair
	Paul Lusardi NØVLR, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
Field Day 2022 Coordinator	Glen Roberts KE7FD

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every **Monday** Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**, a 501.C.3 not for profit organization.

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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Ron Notarius W3WN
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e-mail: newsletter@n3sh.org or w3wn@arrl.net

"The WASHRag", "The Mariner", SHARCfest, South Hills Hamfest, WASHfest, WASHfest 2022, N3SH Net, WA3SH Net and WASHNet are trademarks of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners & operators of both the N3SH/R Repeaters and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test February 26th

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on **Saturday, February 26th, 2022, 10:00 AM, at Home Economics Building, South Park,** Pavilion 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz repeater. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Pre-registration is encouraged. Walk-ins taken on a space/time available basis.

If you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Grant Olson KC3MLC: kgo@grant-olson.net

Please bring the following to your test session:

- + Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)
- + Pen / Pencil / Calculator
- + Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)
- + Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)
- + Check in the amount of \$15.00 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Note that the FCC now only accepts FRNs as identification numbers. If you don't have an FRN, please create one in advance at <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do>

Future test dates: To Be Determined

Curtis's Reflections



It seems like it was just last week that we were celebrating New Years day and just a few days ago that we were having our first meeting of the year. I appreciate everyone that attended that meeting in-person as well as virtually.

I look forward to our upcoming virtual meeting on the 3rd as well as **WASHFest** on Sunday the 27th. I hope to see you all at one or both, although I do expect that in respect to **WASHFest**, members will do what they feel is right in maintaining their personal safety.

In closing let's all keep our fellow "Should Be First", Mr. N3SBF - Richie and of course Mrs. Carol -KB3GMN in our thoughts as Richie snaps back from his medical procedure.

Everyone stay safe and warm.

— 73, Curtis Turner KB3CMT

President, WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH

Reminder: *The February WASH Meeting will be held at Virtual Zoom meeting. Please check your email for your invitation to the meeting. If you don't receive one by Thursday afternoon, please contact Curtis KB3CMT and request that the information be resent. Our next "in person" gatherings will be the VE Session and WASHFest on February 26th & 27th*

WASHFest 2022 – Getting back to our roots.

With the virus still lingering and new variants out there, the Wireless Association of South Hills has decided to **scale WASHFest 2022 back**. We are going to have a single day old-fashioned "Swap Fest" event on Sunday February 27th, 2022. The Event will run from 8:00 am till 1:00pm. We will open the doors for entry and setup beginning at 7:00am.

The **VEC Exam will be held separately on Saturday, February 26th**, starting at 11:00 AM (tentatively). All are invited to join. Please contact Grant Olson, KC3MLC, at kgo@grant-olson.net with any questions, comments, or to schedule an exam session.

We understand that with the virus variants and the trending fuel prices, many far-away vendors may be hesitant to attend. So, no major vendors are expected. We will have our usual hall, the Home Economics Building at South Park. The doors will open for anyone wishing to set up for an indoor flea-market at 7:00 AM – on a first come, first served basis. There will be NO charge for tables – but once the available tables in the building run out, you will have to bring your own, pending space available. NO reservations, with one exception: We will accept reservations for a club table from WPA clubs ONLY, limit ONE table each (please contact Glen KE7FD to reserve).

General admission will begin at 8:00 AM. There will be NO admission charge.

There will be no early setup of the hall on Saturday or any overnight security.

We are tentatively planning on making coffee and donuts available; outside of that, no other food will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own, of course. Regrettably, this was felt to be the best overall course of action.

There will be no prize tickets sold, due to the uncertainty of attendance.

Although no admission will be charged, donations to offset our costs will be accepted.

This will be a "one off" event, and next year, we plan to return to our normal **WASHFest**.

Why are we doing this? A hamfest is more than a fundraiser, or a place to buy and sell junk, er, rare and valuable items for our radio shack. It's also a social gathering. Something we've had too few of in the last 18 months. So rather than cancel outright again, we're holding this as a social event, an old-fashioned "eye ball". (Besides, the hall was already rented and paid for... use it or lose it!)

Of course, this is all being planned on the presumption that restrictions on indoor gatherings won't be in place again at the end of February 2022. We're optimistic that things will improve... but please be aware that while all are welcome, we must be mindful of any public policy changes that are beyond our control.

Hope to see you on the 26th!

(based on text written by Curtis KB3CMT, with contributions from Paul NØVLR and editing by Ron W3WN)

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 13

Minutes, January 6th Meeting

Nathan Suehr KC3GMM, Vice President / Secretary, WASH

Meeting held at Panera Bread, The Galleria, Mt. Lebanon PA & on Zoom

Call to Order: 19:04. Presiding Officer: Curtis KB3CMT

Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence for Silent Keys and others deserving.

Roll Call.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Mark Stabryla, (N3RDV): Report sent to Nathan (KC3GMM) and forwarded to Curtis KB3CMT. Read and accepted.

Secretary: Nathan Suehr (KC3GMM): No corrections to the minutes. Motion to accept by Bill (W3WH), second by Larry (K3VX) and carried. No correspondence.

Repeaters: Frank (N3FB): Problem with digipeater announcing incorrect net date..

WASHNet: Charles (Chuck) Bihun, III (K3CELA): Well attended, well used.

Thursday Night Tech Net: Glen Roberts (KE7FD):

- Tech talk planned for third Thursday January, still looking for topics.
- This month antenna analyzer work.

Contests: Larry (K3VX)

- 2 meter simplex this weekend, rules in newsletter. Discussion about certain frequencies being shared with repeater inputs.
- Winter Field Day January 29th & 30th. (Mike WA3PYU)

Public Service: Mike (WA3PYU): No public service events

Newsletter: Ron Notarius (W3WN): Published. If you didn't get it, please let Ron know. (Kathy (KA3VXM) did not.)

Volunteer Examiners: Grant Olsen (KC3MLC): Next VE session will be at **WASHFest 2022**. Event still on unless public gatherings are shut down.

Ways & Means (including Member Contributions): Carol Danko (KB3GMN): (No report)

President's Report - Curtis (KB3CMT): Tony (KB3BYA), as his last duty as 2021 President, announced Carol KB3GMN and Richie N3SBF as recipients of the 2021 Kilowatt Award.

Old Business:

- Bill (W3WH) - Hamfest committee should meet to finalize plans
- Curtis (KB3CMT) - Will set up zoom meeting for **WASHFest 2022** planning committee.

New Business: Glen (KE7FD) - Proposal to fund N3SH UHF repeater for upgrades; proposal to link N3SH UHF and N3SH VHF full time; proposal for club to reaffirm its need and support for Frank N3FB's repeater. Proposals consolidated to one proposal to optimize N3SH repeaters. Suggested priority on linking N3SH VHF and UHF.

- Frank (N3FB) - N3SH UHF repeater is on W3PGH tower for free and much can be done to make improvements. Suggested visit to both repeater sites (N3SH vhf and uhf) with checklist of items to look at for.
- Jim (WB4GCS) - Suggested preamp, attenuator, bandpass filter as upgrades to UHF repeater and link to N3SH VHF repeater to improve coverage in Pittsburgh.
- Ron (W3WN) - N3SH repeater has good coverage in downtown Pittsburgh including indoors (downtown) and North Side
- Curtis (KB3CMT) - Suggest holding Glen's motion until next meeting to find out about access to repeater sites. Would need access to hospital because access is needed to add uhf antenna for link.
- Tony (KB3CMT) - Vernard Campbell is St. Clair hospital access
- Bill (W3WH) - Proposal to table Glen's suggested upgrades
- Frank (N3FB) - Proposal to put committee together to research discussed upgrades. Glen to lead committee.

Good of the Order:

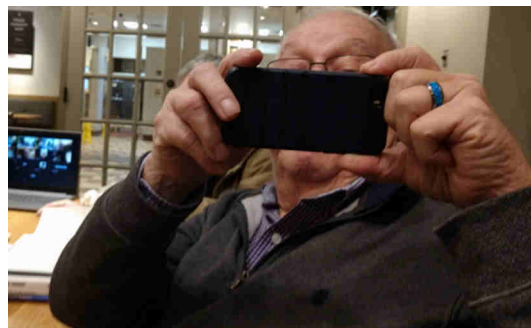
- Larry (K3VX) - Free amateur radio books from Bill (W3WH) available for anyone interested.
- Tony (KB3BYA) - Westmorland Radio Club VE test session on January 22nd at Westmorland Masonic Lodge.

Adjournment: Motion Bill (W3WH); seconded Larry (K3VX). Carried

Adjourned: 19:51

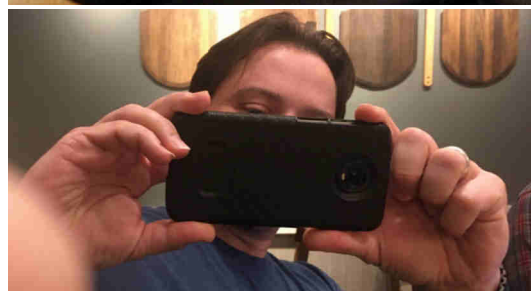


WASH Spotlight: Photogs



Bill W3WH and Nathan KC3GMM managed to catch each other taking pictures of each other at the February WASH Meeting at Panera Bread!

Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2022 Nathan Suehr KC3GMM and Bill Hill W3WH



Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**.

Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at **newsletter at n3sh dot org**

Monthly WASH Breakfast



Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!

Join us this month at **Eat'n Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19), McMurray. Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.659 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

2022

AA3XY
K3GW
K3HCR
K3SGT
K3VX
K6DWR
KA3VXM
KB3BYA
KB3CMT
KB3GMU
KB3IAC
KB3IVX
KC3GMM
KC3MLC
KC3NFC
KC3OCT
KC3QZY
KC3RAA
KC4WTT
KE7FD
N0VLR

N3DFK
N3FB
N3IDH
N3JSF
N3KFD
N3RDV
N3UE
N8NEU
NB3C
NL7XM
W3LE
W3WN
WA3PYU
WA3VSS
WB4GCS

2021

AE3DL
K3CMU
K3JDS
K3YQA
K8DRH

KB3ERQ
KB3GMN
KB3SQZ
KB3YCX
KC3NPJ
KC3QAH
KC3RGV
KC3RTF
KC3RZL
KO4EZO
N3NWR
N3RDR
N3SDF
N3ZK
N7TDX
W3WH
WA3JFL
WB3CAI

WASH FL
KA3UPY/M
WASH NE
N0PEU
WASH OH
N8DPW
WASH OR
KB3NVL
KB3NVM
WASH SC
N8NEU

WASH TN
K3OL
KE3XB
N3YPB
WASH TX
NB3C
K3LGM
KB3IJX
Jane Wagner
WASH VI
NP2JF

Silent Keys

AB3KA
AB3ED
K3EED
K3LIE
KA3NMG
KB3ENX
KB3FNM
KB3FQT
KB3JHQ
N3BPP
N3CZZ
N3FZ
N3HKQ
N3KEH
N3OBD
N3RNX
N3SKR
N3SRC
N3ZEL
N3XFE
W3ZLK
W4ZE
WA3JPP

If your call should be listed here & isn't, please contact Mark N3RDV

Through January 31st, 2022

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2022 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

February 3 rd	WASH Meeting	ZOOM Online Meeting Check Your Email for Details
February 19 th	Breezeshooters Groundwave CW	http://www.breezeshooters.net
February 19 th — 20 th	ARRL DX Contest - CW	http://www.arrl.org
February 26 th	WASHFest 2022 VEC Exams	Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park
February 27 th	WASHFest 2022	Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park
March 3 rd	WASH Meeting	TBA
March 5 th - 6 th	ARRL DX Contest - Phone	http://www.arrl.org
March 5 th	Breezeshooters Groundwave Voice	http://www.breezeshooters.net
March 12 th	Breezeshooters Groundwave Digital	http://www.breezeshooters.net
March 26 th - 27 th	CQ WPX Contest - Phone	http://www.cqwp.com
April 3 rd	Two Rivers ARC Hamfest	http://www.trarc.net
April 7 th	WASH Meeting	TBA
May 5 th	WASH Meeting	TBA
May 20 th – 22 nd	Hamvention	Greene County Fairgrounds & Expo Center, Xenia, OH

N3UE Woodworking



Ed Wolf N3UE has recently taken up a new endeavor... laser engraving. (See sample)

He's currently available for plaques and signs of varying shapes and designs.

Prices vary, but are very reasonable!

Interested? Contact Ed directly at n3ue11@gmail.com

"Seen" at the January "Hybrid" Meeting

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2022 Chuck Bihun KC3ELA, Bill Hill W3WH & Frank Bobro N3FB



KC3ELA Photo



After 65 Years, the Adventure Continues

Bill Hill W3WH

North Strabane Township, PA, January 18th, 2022 – A month ago Linda and I finally moved into our new apartment overlooking Canonsburg Lake.

I've lived in my own home for the last 50 or so years so I've always had the freedom to install whatever antennas I wanted. Now that freedom is pretty much a thing of the past and I'm limited to whatever the landlord will permit. So far I've been very fortunate in that the management here (Presbyterian Senior Care) have been very helpful and supportive.

We live on the 4th (top) floor of our building and I originally got permission to install a Scorpion Dipole above our balcony. I abandoned that option when I realized there is no practical (for me) lightning protection option on the fourth floor. I suggested to the management that we install the dipole in the attic above my apartment and they agreed. I wasn't permitted to do the installation myself so I showed the building construction manager what to do and now the antenna is safely located in the attic. Still no dedicated lightning protection but the exposure is limited since it is under roof.

The antenna is a Scorpion Dipole. It consists of two mobile screwdriver verticals installed horizontally to create a dipole. So in addition to the coax feedline it requires two motor control lines. We got the antenna installed and began testing. I discovered that the antenna would not tune anywhere from 80-10 meters. Ouch! The problem turned out to be interaction with the fire sprinkler system supply pipe which is a six inch steel pipe. So we turned the antenna 90 degrees to the pipe which effectively has eliminated the interaction and now the antenna tunes on all bands with an SWR of 1.5-1 or less. Voila!

The antenna performs quite well considering that it's indoors under roof. The only remaining difficulty is that on 80 and 75 meters one of our TV's suffers severe TVI. Flashback to channel 2 in the 50's. As a result of this I've installed an isolation balun at each end of the coax and MANY ferrite beads on the motor control lines. None of this has helped our one TV but a couple others are unaffected. Hopefully no one else in the building will be bothered by me on my infrequent visits to 80/75 meters.

I calculated the worst case RF exposure using the ARRL tool and it seems that the worst case for my situation would be on 10 meters where the minimum safe separation distance from the antenna is 5 feet. No problem. I know that I don't have the loudest signal on the bands but so far I've worked all over the US, South America and Europe. I'm a happy camper since I'm still in the game after 65 wonderful years.

I'm hoping to secure permission to install an end-fed dipole in the Spring. Stay tuned!

Shack photos courtesy of and (c)Copyright 2022 Bill Hill W3WH



The VFO/PTO Rebuild

Bill Steffy NY9H

Prosperity, PA, January 27th, 2022 – The Argonaut 509 & 515 are two fantastic QRP radios from Ten Tec, from back in the 1970s, before anyone knew what QRP was!

After finding a used 509 in the QST classified ads, I drove 6 hours one night to pick up a set in Western Illinois.

Now after 40 years, both sets have seized VFOs. TenTec had a MOST UNIQUE (*) TUNING ASSEMBLY, consisting of about 18 small moving parts. All of which were coated in grease, which, after about 15 years turns into solid gunk. They ALL seize.

Before Ten Tec went out of business (**), I bought an official VFO 'rebuild' kit, preparing for the repair event (See Picture 1, left), but OF COURSE COULD NOT FIND IT. So I used white lithium grease from Home Depot..



With the rebuild procedures estimated to take 6 hours to rebuild, I put this rebuild off for 15 years, UNTIL YESTERDAY.

The first set, a 515, did take about 5 hours as I repeatedly made the same assembly mistake. I kept assembling the ball bearings into the 'core drive rod' forgetting the tuning shaft... finally getting it correct. When I eventually got to the Argonaut 509 I finally got the ball bearings & rod installed in the proper order on the first attempt.

The 515 is done, now I get to figure how I got the 509 dial going backwards.. probably a mis-stringing. A few hours later redoing the dial cord has it working properly.

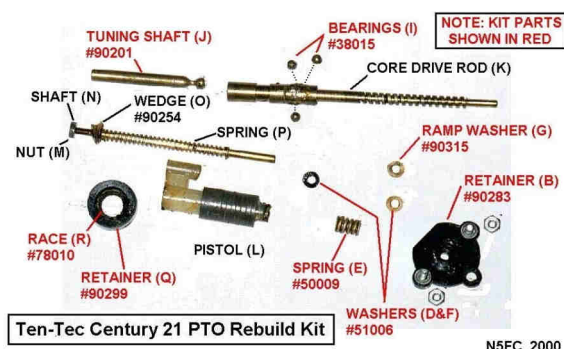
First contact was on 20 meters SSB ZAMBIA Gunter in Namibia !!!!!; for the Daily WPA net on 3983, that dial is all the way to the right side of the dial, & the frequency readout ring is dead on.

A GREAT SNOW WINTER PROJECT

Photos courtesy of and (c)Copyright 2022 Bill Steffy NY9H

(*) "unique cannot have any adjectives or adverbs" -Grammar Police.

(**) Ten Tec is still, technically, in business, under new ownership, although dealing with the pandemic related supply challenges, etc. Bill is referring to the original ownership — Ed



Field Day 2022

Because Babcock was not reserved far enough in advance for 2022, we will at Sunset Hills Grove for Friday through Sunday, June 24th through 26th.

The shelter and surrounding area is at the junction of 100 Acres Drive and Texas Road, with access from either road.

Lots of trees and open space to adapt to our use. Hard surface parking near the shelter, and also far enough away for the Tower Trailer.

December 2021 Volunteer Monitor Program Reports

Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, VM Program Administrator

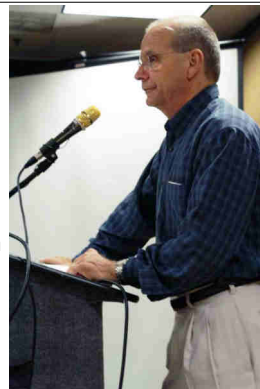
Gettysburg, PA, January 6th, 2022 – The Volunteer Monitor (VM) Program is a joint initiative between ARRL and the FCC to enhance compliance in the Amateur Radio Service. This is the December 2021 activity report of the VM Program.

- + Operators in Center Hill and Coconut Creek, Florida, were issued notices for excessive signal bandwidth on 40 and 75 meters, in violation of Section 97.307(a) of FCC rules.
- + General-class operators in Hudson, Florida; Winterville, Georgia; Provo, Utah, and Bloomfield Hills, Jackson, and Howell, Michigan, received notices for out-of-band SSB operation on frequencies not permitted by their General-class licenses, in violation of Section 97.301 of FCC rules.
- + Technician-class operators in Baltimore, Maryland; Divernon, Illinois; Moore, Oklahoma; Bradenton, Florida, and Roseville and Rancho Cordova, California, received Notices for FT8 operation on unauthorized 20- and 40-meter frequencies, in violation of Section 97.301 of FCC rules.
- + Commendations for exemplary amateur radio operation were issued to licensees in these cities: Dahlonaga, Georgia (for managing medical and technical issues during the Six Gap Century bicycle race in October); Riverside, California (for operation during the October Earthquake Situational Emergency Test); Swansea, South Carolina (for operation on the SC HF ARES Net); Springfield, Indiana (for assistance to new operators in message handling); Mims, Florida (for exceptional efforts in correcting wideband issues), and Raymond, Mississippi (for exemplary operation during ARRL Field Day, statewide HF and VHF nets, and assistance to new operators).



The totals for VM monitoring in November were 1,901 hours on HF frequencies and 2,784 hours on VHF frequencies and above, for a total of 4,685 hours.

There was one referral from the FCC for enforcement assistance



New Technician Question Pool Released, Effective July 1st, 2022

American Radio Relay League, NCVEC Question Pool Committee

Newington, CT, January 5th, 2022 – The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the **2022 – 2026 Technician Class FCC Element 2 NCVEC Question Pool Syllabus & Question Pool** into the public domain. It's available as a Word document or PDF. The three graphics required for the new Technician question pool are available within the documents, or separately as PDF or JPG files.



The new pool incorporates some significant changes compared to the 2018 – 2022 pool. Its 257 questions were modified slightly to improve wording or to replace distractors; 51 new questions were generated, and 62 questions were eliminated. This resulted in a reduction of 11 questions, bringing the total number of questions in the pool from 423 to 412. The difficulty level of the questions is now more balanced, and the techniques and practices addressed have been updated.

The new 2022 – 2026 question pool is effective July 1st, 2022 – June 30th, 2026, and *must* be used for Technician-class license exams administered on or after July 1st, 2022.

2022 International DX Convention Cancelled

Visalia, CA, January 11th, 2022 – It is with regret that the 2022 International DX convention in Visalia, California has been **cancelled**. The convention committee of the Southern California DX Club acted in response to the current COVID virus threat. We look forward to 2023. Those who had hotel reservations please contact the hotel to ensure they are canceled.

Note: EVERYONE WHO HAS HOTEL RESERVATIONS, it is your responsibility to cancel your reservation as soon as possible so that the hotels can resell their rooms.

Respectfully, Bill Kendrick N6RV & Mel Hughes, K6SY

Two Rivers ARC 50th Annual Hamfest

Sunday, April 18th, 2021, 8:00 AM—2:00 PM

The McKeesport Palisades

100 Fifth Avenue, McKeesport, PA 15132

Talk-in on 146.730 — Mobile Check In 146.52

Admission \$5

More Information at <http://www.trarc.net>

Or Contact Bill Powers (412) 260-5699 atsfbill2@gmail.com



A Nice Surprise with a Long Story

Pete Dougherty W2IRT

West Caldwell, NJ, January 28th, 2022 – I became active on 160m in early 2006 and it's now my favorite band, and has been for most of that time. It's always a challenge and because my QTH has some rather severe takeoff angle issues (Europe, Africa, South America, Southern Ocean), I haven't always been able to work the rare ones on Topband, but I still fight for every new counter, and I'm in the mid-190s.

But I had one major hole in my log, that despite years of listening and trying, I had never been able to fill. My white whale. Japan. That shouldn't be, since I have a clear takeoff angle to JA, and I can usually sit there and work as many as can copy me from 10 to 80 when there's propagation. I can even run JAs on 80 some mornings on FT8 just after my dawn. But for whatever reason, JA on Topband just never made it into my log until a couple of weeks ago. I'd just missed a huge opening one day, and I vowed I'd get up every morning and try for as long as there was a path on Topband. Well it took two weeks but one--and ONLY one--came through my FT8 software. JA4DND. He was in and out over a 30 minute period, but my perseverance paid off and I worked him. I had to give my 73 about a dozen times before I finally saw his 73 come back to me.

I immediately emailed him and thanked him profusely for the QSO, and explained the circumstances. he showed me a screen grab of all my 73s, and my inability to copy over the pole almost cost me the QSO as it was his last attempt to acknowledge my 73 that made it through to my screen. The QSO was on LoTW in a few minutes and that was that, but I was over the moon, lemme tell ya.

Well, this afternoon I got his unsolicited QSL in the mail, direct, at his expense. What a wonderful gesture! It wasn't a QSO that gave me anything but a DXCC counter and a Zone on 160 (I'm not really working on Topband WAZ yet), but it was a celebration of the achievement I'd been trying to fulfil for about 15 years, and that felt pretty damned awesome. Obviously my card to him goes out tomorrow!



W2IRT @ 4U1UN photo courtesy of DX World

Hams and vendors hoping to attend Hamvention 2022 are asking questions about plans to deal with COVID. Hamvention management is monitoring the situation closely. General Chairman Rick Allnutt WS8G, has issued the following statement:

"We strongly anticipate that the Hamvention 2022 is a go. We cannot guarantee what government may decide about unknown changes in the pandemic. It has become obvious that the State of Ohio is very unlikely to call a halt to large gatherings anytime soon. Despite a recent large spike in Omicron COVID cases and hospitalizations, there is no move to restrict large indoor or outdoor events such as sports events."

Allnutt added that he anticipates the official state guidance may be to recommend (but not require) wearing a mask and social distancing. Hamvention will support state guidance. We do not anticipate checking immunization status on site.

Some have asked whether COVID testing will be available at Hamvention. At this time there are no plans to have testing on site. Watch hamvention.org for any updates dealing with the COVID situation.

Get Hamvention Alerts: Text [Hamvention](https://hamvention.org) to 888777

— courtesy of hamvention.org

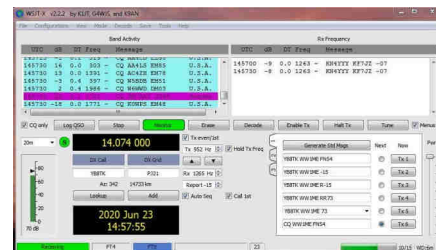
WSJT Development Group Releases "Bug Fix" WSJT-X 2.5.4

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 5th, 2022 – The WSJT development group has released an updated version of WSJT-X — version 2.5.4 — which it's calling a "bug fix." The primary fix repairs a defect that caused occasional crashes when contacting stations with non-standard call signs. It also allows [MAP65's](https://www.hamradio.com) "best-fit Delta Phi (Dphi)" solution to be displayed to the user.

The WSJT development group also has welcomed new members Chet Fennell KG4IYS, and Dr. Uwe Risse DG2YCB. "Each brings important skills and experience[s] to the project, after the loss of Bill Somerville G4WJS," said Joe Taylor K1JT, on behalf of the group. "The newly constituted group has been working to redefine standard operating procedures for new releases."

Installation packages for WSJT-X are available for Windows and Linux. An installation package for macOS will be added soon.



Clairton, PA, January 31st, 2022 – Folks if you are a gamer then I feel your pain.

To enlighten those who are not familiar with what I'm eluding to allow me to fill you in briefly. The world of Bitcoin has a group of die hard users typically referred to as "miners" who are able to take a high-end computer graphics card and leverage the processing power of the graphics chip to number crunch at such an astonishing rate that other PC's are unable to compete with, especially when groups like this will have racks full of graphics cards in the hundreds of units. This demand for these graphics cards has had a detrimental effect on PC gamers. Cards that once cost \$100 to \$200 have jumped anywhere approaching \$2,000 and \$3,000.

Where this is going in relation to ham radio, is if you know someone who is in that situation, introduce them to radio. Since they can't really feed their gaming habit, introduce them to another way to spend their otherwise unfulfilled gaming needs by replacing it with ham radio!

73, Glen Roberts KE7FD

ARRL Foundation Grant Program Accepting Proposals

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, February 1st, 2022 – The [ARRL Foundation Grant Program](https://www.arrl.org) is accepting proposals until February 28th. Interested organizations can find more information including eligibility criteria and guidelines on the grant program web page. (This is not the Club Grant Program that was recently announced).



All proposals will be reviewed by the Foundation Grant Committee at the close of the cycle. Once the Committee agrees on the proposals to award, they will be sent to the full Foundation Board for a formal vote.

Awardees will be notified approximately 1 month after the closing of the cycle.

Comments Invited on New Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument Management Plan

American Radio Relay League, Don Greenbaum N1DG

Newington, CT, January 5th, 2022—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have invited comments regarding a new **Monument Management Plan** for the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (KH1, KH3, KH5, and KH9).

The monument encompasses approximately 495,200 square miles in the central Pacific Ocean. It includes seven islands and atolls: Baker, Howland, and Jarvis islands; Johnston, Wake, and Palmyra atolls, as well as the Kingman Reef.

You can read the document and instructions for submitting comments [here](#).

Don Greenbaum N1DG serves as the appointed Citizen-at-Large Representative for the **NOAA/USFWS Community Group**, providing input on drafting the new management plan. This notice is the result of 2 years of drafting that plan, with input from NOAA, USFWS, and the Community Group participants.

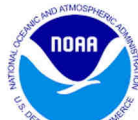


Photo courtesy DX World



Chris W2RTO at the KC4USV McMurdo Station shack in Antarctica.

Photo courtesy of DX World

URE San Fernando EA7URF is participating in the official celebrations for the 500th anniversary of the first circumnavigation of the Earth. The 9th in a series of AM500 special event stations representing a milestone of the voyage will be **AM500TOR**, to be active on 19-27 March to memorialize the longest and most perilous stage of the return voyage ("tornaviaje") to Spain of the ship 'Victoria' under the command of Juan Sebastian Elcano from Timor to Cape Verde (7 February-9 July 1522).



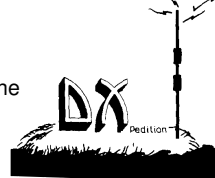
#AM...

More information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EA7AmateurRadioGroup/posts/6648606535180451/>

QSL via EA7URF, LoTW and eQSL.

— courtesy of 425 DX News and DX World

DX News Briefs



VK90ABC will be QRV throughout 2022 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. More information can be found at <http://www.vk90abc.net>

J68HZ is QRV through 8 February, and will again be QRV 1 – 7 March, including the ARRL DX Contest SSB. QSL via K9HZ Direct

DK6SP is currently QRV as **5B4AQC** through 27 July, holiday style, CW, various HF bands. QSL via DK6SP

W2RTO is currently QRV from **KC4USV** McMurdo Station, Ross Island, AN. Look for him on 20 meters SSB & FT-8 around 0045, 0630, 1545 and 2130 Z. He will be there through the summer. QSL via K7MT

9K9NLD will be QRV during February to celebrate Kuwait's National Day and Liberation Day. QSL via Kuwait Amateur Radio Society or as directed.

DL2JRM will be QRV during February as **Z66BCC**, including the CQ WPX RTTY contest 12 – 13 February. QSL via DL2JRM

6W7/ON4AVT will be QRV 6 February – 10 April, 80 – 10, SSB & Digital modes. QSL via ClubLog

8Q7AH will be QRV 8 – 15 February on various HF bands. QSL via ClubLog

8Q7WM and **8Q7WX** will be QRV 12 February – 8 March, 160 80 & 40, CW & SSB. QSL 8Q7WM via OK2WM, 8Q7WX via OK2WX

7T2ANT will be QRV during the 19th Antarctic Activity Week, 21 – 27 February. QSL via IK2DUW

FO/SP5EAQ will be QRV 2 – 30 March from Rimatara Island (OC-050), 80 – 10, SSB only. During the CQ WPX SSB Contest 26 – 27 March, he will be using the special call **TX5AQ**. More information at <http://australs.sp7dqr.pl/index.html>. QSL both via SP7DQR

M0HEM will be QRV as **GB3SPD** on 16 March to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. More information on his QRZ.com page.

A team of operators will be QRV as **NH7T** from the KH6YY QTH during the CQ WPX SSB Contest, 26-27 March. QSL via KH6SH

OE6VIE will be QRV as **OE0MORSE** from 1 – 30 April to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of Samuel F.B. Morse. CW only. A special commemorative award will be available. More information on his QRZ.com page

OE22M will be QRV on or about 23 April, to commemorate International Marconi Day and Guglielmo Marconi's birthday. QSL direct.

C5C will be QRV from Kololi from 22 May – 7 June. They may also be QRV from Bijol Island (AF-060) as **C5B**. More information to be forthcoming.

QSL Routes

4U1GSC via 9A2AA
5X4E via IZ3ZLG
6Y5HM via EA5GL
9A0BB via 9A3JB
9N1CA via EA5ZD
AP2TN via DJ9ZB
AX6IR via VK6IR
CE1TT via N200
CP4BT via IK2DUW
CT7AZT via G4SOG
CX2RA via EA7FTR
DK050BN via DK0BN
DL0MFL via DL2JRM
DM7X via DL1PAN
DQ1P via DK1IP
DQ5R via DK7UY
ES5TTT via N4GNR
EX0DX via HB9DUR
EX2V via RW6HS
GQW via G0VDZ
G1A via M0NKR
G5B via G4ODA
GB5HAM via M0IRU
GM3A via M00JOM
GM3F via GM4FDM

HF0ROSA via SP7X
HF80AK via SP9CJM
HF9FIELD via SN9PJ
HG8DX via HA8FT
HH2AA via EB7DX
HK3C via M0URX
HP3SS via AC2OV
HS0ZNR via VK2BY
HZ1DS via DJ9ZB
HZ1SK via IZ8CLM
HZ1TT via A61BK
JY5HX via E73Y
KC4USV via K7MT
LY13LY via LY80
M0B via G4KZD
M2D via G4NVR
M7W via G3TBK
MX0NCA via 2E0BO
OH0100AX via OH0A
OK7K via OK1BN
OL5GMA/P via OK3EQ
OT7D via ON7DM
OX3LX via OZ0J
OX50HRH via OZ1ACB
OZ50HRH via OZ1ACB

PA75UBA via PA2TMS
PY5ZHP via SP7CVW
S21RC via EB7DX
SE0X via SM0MDG
SP200IL via SP3POB
SU9VB via UA4WHX
TF3XO via EA5GL
TM2CW via F5NZY
TM2Y via F6BEE
TM30BUS via F1LFL
TM4S via F7HBI
TM55M via F4ESV
TO6S via EA5GL
UK8FF via W3HNK
UK8LC via RW6HS
V31XX via K4XS
VP9HE via W2AF
ZA/IK2RLM via IZ2LSP
ZA/OE8NDR via DE1QSL
ZC4GR via EB7DX
ZF5T via K5GO
ZM4T via ZL3IO
ZP5KO via PY4KL
ZS1DX via M0OXO
ZS3Y via N4GNR

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News Reflector, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, DX Coffee, DX World.Net, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to the ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



WASH Classifieds

Information shown here is as supplied to the **WASHRag**. Condition as stated, and all sales should be considered "as-is" unless otherwise noted. All subject to prior sale or withdrawal from sale at the owner's discretion. All responsibility for this information lies with the source and not the **WASHRag** or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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Lazaroff & Suhr, Attorneys at Law

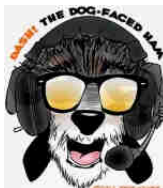
277 West Main Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056

Phone: 724-352-4905

The **WASHRag** Masthead is courtesy of Jeff Murray K1NSS, creator of DASHToons & Dash the Dog Faced Ham!!

Find the online cartoons and stories of Dash the Dogfaced Ham & more at <https://www.jeffk1nss.com>!

Shop for Dash items at his online store on Café Press, www.cafepress.com/shopdash



US Amateurs by Class as of January 31st, 2022

Novice	7,829
Technician	428,577
General	195,466
Advanced	38,081
Extra	160,047
Club	12,490
Total	842,490

All-Time High 01/26/2022 842,596

Last 90 Days: New Amateurs 6,051

Callsign Changes 2,100

Class Changes 2,786

No Longer Licensed 4,505

All Updates (*) 24,749

(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of Hamdata.com

Latest Region 3 Sequential Calls, Issued as of January 31st, 2022:

Group A	AC3IL
Group B	KF3EU
Group C	(none available / all issued)
Group D	KC3TKY

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of Hamdata.com

If you've downloaded the **WASHRag** from the N3SH web site, or picked up a copy from a friend... you can sign up to have the PDF copy sent directly to your email. You **do NOT** have to be a member of **WASH**!

Just send an email to w3wn73@gmail.com and we will take care of the rest!



FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 18th, 2022 – The FCC has established April 14th, 2022, as **the date by which amateur radio transmissions must stop in the upper 3.45 – 3.5 GHz segment of the amateur secondary 9-centimeter band.**

Secondary operations are permitted to continue indefinitely in the remainder of the band, 3.3 – 3.45 GHz, pending future FCC proceedings.

On January 14th the FCC **released** DA 22-39, which announces the results of Auction 110 for the 3.45 – 3.55 GHz band. Release of this notice triggered FCC rules adopted last year requiring that amateur radio operations between 3.45 GHz and 3.5 GHz cease within 90 days of the public notice.

In October 2021, ARRL President Rick Roderick K5UR, urged Congress to direct the FCC to preserve Amateur Radio's secondary use of the 3 GHz band in a written **statement** responding to H.R. 5378, the Spectrum Innovation Act of 2021, before the US House Commerce Communications and Technology Subcommittee.

A **chronology of actions** responding to amateur access on the 3.5 GHz band can be found on the ARRL website.

FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel named two prominent radio amateurs among her appointments to the FCC Technological Advisory Council (**TAC**) on January 19th. Appointed were Greg Lapin N9GL, and Michelle Thompson W5NYV. Lapin chairs the ARRL RF Safety Committee and has represented **ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio** on the TAC since 2001.

ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare W1RFI, noted that Lapin has been involved with RF safety and the FCC since the last FCC significant rules changes in 1998. "He is again helping the FCC prepare information on OET Bulletin 65 Supplement B for amateur radio, giving guidance for amateurs who need to comply with the FCC rules on RF exposure. His work is highly respected by the FCC and the ARRL Lab, making it easier for amateurs to evaluate their stations," said Hare.

Thompson is CEO of the Open Research Institute (ORI), which she will represent on the TAC. ORI is a non-profit research and development organization dedicated to open-source work that includes such areas as amateur satellites and digital communications. She is an ARRL Life Member. Thompson will discuss "Digital Communications Technology" on February 10th at the **ARRL National Convention in Orlando**, as part of the **Technology Academy** workshop Track.

The TAC serves to assist the FCC in identifying important areas of innovation and developing informed technology policies that support US competitiveness in the global economy. The TAC will consider and advise the FCC on topics such as 6G, artificial intelligence, advanced spectrum-sharing technologies, and emerging wireless technologies, including new tools to restore internet access during shutdowns and other disruptions.

The TAC will hold its first meeting of the year on February 28th.

Newington, CT, January 25th, 2022 – **AMSAT-EA** (Spain) has said it appears that EASAT-2 and HADES are transmitting, and that weak signals have been heard, but the satellites' antennas may not have deployed.

"We confirm the reception of both EASAT-2 and HADES, as well as the decoding of telemetry and the FM recorded voice beacon with the call sign AM5SAT of the first one. EASAT-2 appears to be working well, except for the deployment of the antennas — something that apparently has not yet occurred and causes weak signals," said AMSAT-EA Mission Manager Felix Paez EA4GQS. "However, the AMSAT-EA team confirms that, based on the reception of FSK, CW, the FM voice beacon, and the telemetry data that has been decoded, it can be said that the satellite is working perfectly. In the event of low battery or system malfunction, the onboard computer would not transmit CW messages or the voice beacon call sign, as it would be in [safe mode] with only fast and slow telemetry transmissions."

At the request of AMSAT-EA, EASAT-2 has been designated as Spain-OSCAR 114 (SO-114) and HADES as Spain-OSCAR 115 (SO-115).

"These signals that confirm the operation of both satellites were received by Daniel Estévez EA4GPZ, at 1807 UTC on Saturday, January 15th, using two antennas from the Allen Telescope Array." Doppler observations from the co-launched Delfi-PQ satellite and the amateur radio community have been used to identify the satellites' orbits or **TLEs**.

AMSAT-EA reports that Estévez performed a preliminary analysis using just one polarization of one of the Allen Telescope Array satellite dishes. EASAT-2 was detected with a relatively strong signal, close to the Delfi-PQ signal, obtaining voice FM beacon transmissions and FSK, FSK-CW at 50 baud.

— AMSAT-EA, AMSAT News Service, ARRL

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



WASHfest 2022

*The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **TWENTY SIXTH** big year!*
Sponsored by the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.**

Sunday, February 27th, 2022

8:00 AM until 1:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Home Economics Building, South Park

3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129

Behind the Allegheny County Police Station on Brownsville Road

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL

Free Admission



(800) 545-8881

FREE Coffee
for the entire
Hamfest
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2022 (Only) to be an Old-Fashioned, Back to Basics Swap 'n' Shop & Social Gathering

Swap 'n' Shop Tables available on a First-Come, First Served Basis,
while they last (limit one table per person or group) — or bring your
own (pending available space)

Table Cost: **FREE**



Free Coffee and Donuts will be provided, while supplies last.

Due to potential COVID related restrictions, we regret that the kitchen will be closed this
year; no other food or beverages will be provided by the club.

WASHfest 2022 VEC Exams

Saturday, February 26th, 2022

Starting at 11:00 AM until ??? Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Home Economics Building, South Park

3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129

Behind the Allegheny County Police Station on Brownsville Road

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL

Walk-Ins Welcome, Pre-Registered Preferred

If you plan on attending the test session, or to pre-register, please contact VE Team Liason
Grant Olson KC3MLC: kgo@grant-olson.net



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application, New or Renewal



I would like to join WASH! I am interested in the following type of membership: ☐ **New Membership** ☐ **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter _____)
(check one)

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

☐ (FM1) Family Membership (\$3.00 x No. of household family members): \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

New Members Only:

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

Signature: _____

Call Sign: _____

License Class: _____

Expires On: _____

Work Phone: _____

Birthday: _____

ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Family ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

N3RDV has requested that all membership requests and renewals include an application so that his information is up to date

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.
The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.
Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
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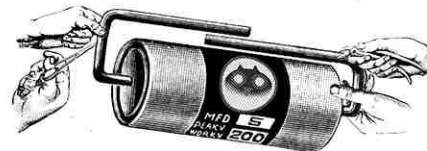
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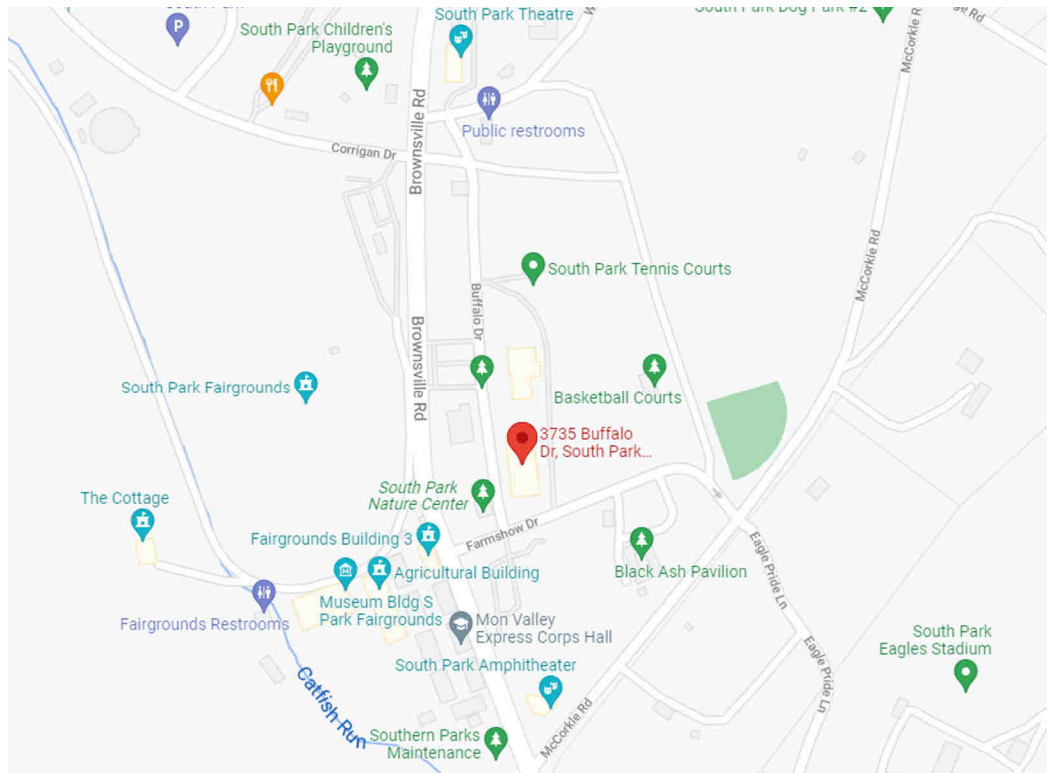
Arghh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?



HANDMADE BY GNOMES.



Directions to the WASHFest 2022



The Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, is one block off of Brownsville Road, adjacent to the Allegheny County Police Station and the South Park Nature Center.

Corrigan Drive can be reached from Library Road (Pa Route 88), Follow

Corrigan all the way to Brownsville Road, right onto Brownsville and the building will be visible on the left.

Brownsville Road can be accessed from Sawmill Run (Pa Route 51); follow it into South Park and watch for the building.

Free Parking along the side and rear, off Farmshow Drive.

The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

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Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



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